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# The Eastern Echo

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● SERVING EMU AND YPSILANTI SINCE 1881



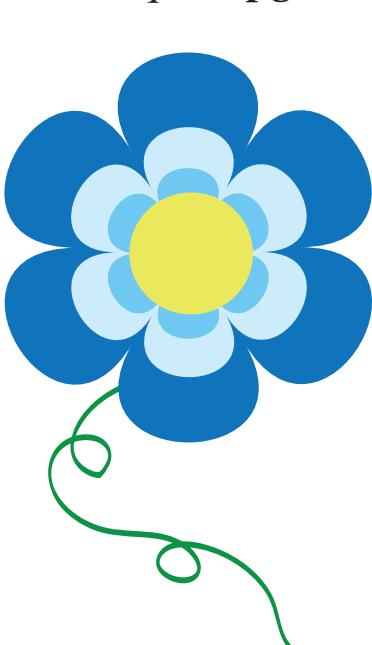
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## Washtenaw County Health Department reports first measles case in five years

**LAUREN HOLLOWAY**  
NEWS REPORTER

On Friday, March 1, at Trinity Health Ann Arbor, formerly known as St. Joe's Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County saw its first reported case of measles since 2019.

Individuals that were present there between the hours of 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. were encouraged to get the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine if they had not already. Anyone with two doses, spaced at least 4 weeks apart, is considered immune.

The case has been contained, and everyone exposed has been notified. The virus is highly contagious, but not expected to grow at this moment.

"From what we know at this point, we do not expect to see additional cases," Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, administrator for the Washtenaw County Health Department, said.

Since the disease is easily spreadable, it's important to know the symptoms. Anyone experiencing high fever, cough, runny nose, red and watery eyes, tiny white spots on the inner cheeks, gums and roof of the mouth (Koplik Spots) two to three days after symptoms begin, and a rash that is red, raised, and blotchy, which usually starts on the face, spreads to trunk, arms and legs three

to five days after symptoms begin, should immediately see a doctor. Symptoms usually present one to two weeks after exposure but can appear up to three weeks after exposure.

are 97% effective. A vaccine administered within 72 hours after exposure can prevent infection.

"Additionally, if someone is at higher



**PHOTO CREDIT: VICTORIA SMITH**

The best way to stay safe is to get the vaccine. Just one dose is 93% effective in protecting against measles, and two doses

risk or can't be vaccinated (like infants, immunocompromised, or pregnant people), immune globulin (Ig) can be given within six

days of exposure," Ringler-Cerniglia said.

Measles is dangerous because it's easily contracted and can lead to lasting effects. The disease is serious for everybody, but children younger than five, adults over 20, pregnant women, and people with compromised immune systems are more susceptible to complications. One in five unvaccinated people in the U.S. who contract measles ends up hospitalized.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state "As many as 1 out of every 20 children with measles gets pneumonia, the most common cause of death from measles in young children."

Out of every 1,000 children who get infected with measles, one will develop encephalitis (swelling of the brain). This is very dangerous and can lead to deafness and intellectual disabilities, as well as death. Kids who get measles can also die from respiratory and neurological complications. Measles can cause premature and low-weight birth in unvaccinated pregnant women.

Vaccines are available at pharmacies, such as CVS and Walgreens, and at the Washtenaw County Health Department.

For more information, visit the Washtenaw County Health Department's website.

## Ypsilanti District Library announces plans for renovating Michigan Avenue location

**CHARLES BOYKINS**  
NEWS REPORTER

In July of 2023, the Ypsilanti community was without

the Michigan Avenue Library due to extensive water damage from a storm. The aftermath left the walls and ceilings soaked, overwhelmed the roof drains, and damaged other parts of the building.

The library has now started to initiate repairs, according to the Ypsilanti District Library (YDL) website.

The Echo reached out to the YDL for comments on the reconstruction and reopening of the library; however, the YDL declined to comment and referred The Echo to their website.

Since the damage, the YDL website has been providing updates on the closing of the building. As they begin to make repairs, they intend to update it with a variety of improvements.

"Interior upgrades will include three new study rooms, a laptop counter with street views, some spiffy new furnishings, and a completely redesigned youth area," Lisa Hoenig, Director of YDL, said in the YDL March 1 update.

The alterations are intended to offer more amenities to future patrons upon the reopening of the library.

In addition to these new amenities, Hoenig expressed excitement on the reconstruction and reopening of the library.

"We have our fingers crossed that our beloved downtown library branch will reopen sometime in June. With the supply chain still a bit unpredictable there's no guarantee, but we're certainly going to try. A big welcome back party is in the works - stay tuned," Hoenig said in the YDL March 1 update.

All information has been offered through the recent March 1 update via the YDL website. The YDL hopes to have the library reopened by June of this year, and YDL will continue to update its community members on the progress of the reconstruction.

## EMU looks to recognize staff with ceremony and awards

**JACK MONK**  
NEWS REPORTER

The awards offered by this ceremony include the Student Engagement and Success Award, Leadership Award, Innovation Award, and Community Engagement and Service Award.

Michael Foster, Ph.D., an assistant professor of the Department of World Languages, received the Ronald W. Collins Award (Teaching I) category in 2023. Foster had learned he was being nominated after a colleague had suggested his nomination due to all the compliments he received from his peers and previous classes.

"It was probably one of the biggest honors I've ever received, as this award is such a prestigious award, and it made me feel such a big part of the community; since I was in

my fourth year when I won it, and I felt like I was doing the right thing by helping our students at Eastern. I have never received an honor like this before," Foster said.

Foster believes students can recognize a dedicated professor and that these awards are just an example of that.

"I always try to be a good role model to them, and it's okay to be busy and tired sometimes, but I try to give a positive attitude and advocate for students," Foster said. "If you don't get an award, that doesn't mean you are not appreciated by the students or the university, even if you get a simple thank you or email from your students by a simple thank you for a fun class, and we really enjoyed taking your class."

On March 21 from 9-11 a.m., the Division of Academic and Student Affairs will host the Distinguished Achievement Recognition Awards Ceremony to recognize staff members across the EMU community. The division has been acknowledging staff since 1978.

From Feb. 19 to March 7, students had the opportunity to appoint a staff member who they felt has made outstanding contributions to their success. By March 11, the selection committee will meet to decide on the nominations.

During her presentation, Patrick discussed the dash between birth and death dates found on gravestones, and how it serves as an analogy for their lives.

"I want to talk about things in the context of the dash because at some point we will all leave this earth," Patrick said. "But we will all have that dash, and that dash will tell the story of our lives. Who are you? What was your contribution? What did you hope to leave behind? What was your impact?"

For Meredith, who still lives in Jackson, Miss., that dash, whenever it appears, will include his contributions to education and the impact his Ole Miss enrollment would have on future generations of African American college students.

Meredith began his educational journey at the University of Mississippi after serving in the United States Air Force from 1951

to 1960. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in political science and later earned a law degree at Columbia University. He has long resisted the label civil rights icon, insisting instead that he was just an American demanding his rights. Now, Meredith, who turned 90 on June 25, 2023, speaks at various venues near his home in Jackson, Miss., sharing an anti-crime message: Obey the 10 Commandments and observe the Golden Rule.

Patrick wrapped up her lecture by encouraging listeners to make waves of their own. When asked by the audience what they could do, Patrick offered suggestions about ways to get involved politically, including contacting government officials and running for office themselves.

In 1962, James Meredith made history when he stepped foot on the campus of University of Mississippi in Oxford, Miss. At 29 years old he became the first African American to attend the University where he later earned a degree there despite a very public effort to keep him out.

On Feb. 20, 2024 Eastern Michigan University political science professor Barbara Patrick retold the story of Meredith and countless civil rights stories as part of the monthly Star Lecture series hosted by the EMU's Honors College.

Patrick, who is the head of the Political Science Department at Eastern presentation discussed the Civil Rights Movement and

the strategies organizers utilized to challenge racial segregation and discrimination in the Deep South.

"Oftentimes, the individuals who we remember and we recognize in history are those who make significant or great contributions that are highly visible," Patrick said. "But there are a lot of people out there who are doing good work who are profiled and who were not recognized."

Meredith's enrollment came eight years after the *Brown v. Board of Education* court ruling, and five years after The Little Rock Nine were enrolled in a segregated high school, and two years after Ruby Bridges became the first African American child to attend a whites-only elementary school. Meredith also wasn't the first Black American to attend a white university or college, but he still forced change in his home state.

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## Eagle Sports Tips and Tales

BLAKE MCQUEARY  
SPORTS EDITOR

## Mid-American Conference announces EMU football's full 2024 schedule

The Mid-American Conference released the official schedule for the Eastern Michigan University football team's 2024 season.

The Eagles' schedule consists of five home games with six games on the road, as the upcoming season will see EMU close out the season finale on a Saturday for the first time since 2022.

EMU will begin its non-conference schedule on the road as they take on future MAC opponent University of Massachusetts on Saturday, Aug. 31, before traveling to Seattle, Wash., for a showdown with National Championship runner-up University of Washington on Saturday, Sept. 7. The Eagles will then return home to Ypsilanti, Mich., for a 2023 rematch with Jacksonville State on Saturday, Sept. 14, before hosting Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) foe St. Francis.

MAC play for the Green and White will open up for the 49th time on Saturday, Sept. 28, in Kent, Ohio, against Kent State University.

The Ypsilanti faithful will get to see a whole lot of Eagles football in October as they open up the month with Miami University in town on Saturday, Oct. 12, before MAC and intrastate rival Central Michigan University comes to Depot Town on Saturday, Oct. 19. EMU will close out October in Akron, Ohio, on Saturday, Oct. 26, against the Zips of Akron.

November will consist of four weeks of battles as the Eagles will host the University of Toledo on Saturday, Nov. 2, travel to Ohio University for Mid-week MACtion on Wednesday, Nov. 13, and host the University at Buffalo to close out the home schedule on Wednesday, Nov. 20.

The season finale for the Eagles will be played in Kalamazoo, Mich., as the battle of I-95 against rival Western Michigan University will take place on Saturday, Nov. 30.

Season tickets for the upcoming season are now on sale and can be purchased at the Eastern Athletics Ticket Office located inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, calling the Ticket Office at 734-487-3669, or by going online to EMUEagles.com/tickets.

## EMU's Raisa Boris earns fourth career MAC Gymnast of the Week honor

Earning her fourth Mid-American Conference Gymnast of the Week was Eastern Michigan University's senior gymnast, Raisa Boris, the league office announced on Tuesday, March 5.

It marked Boris' third consecutive time winning the award after helping the Green and White to a program third-best score of 196.450 against Kent State University.

Boris would lead the Eagles against the Golden Flashes with three event scores of 9.900 to secure another all-around win as her 39.525 overall score would mark the senior's sixth consecutive all-around win and seventh overall this season. With the 39.525 all-around performance, Boris would notch her career-high as the score sits at second in EMU gymnastics history, right behind former Eagle Natalie Hashimoto's 39.725 in 2000.

The Brooklyn native would secure 9.900 scores on the uneven bars, the floor event, and on beam. Her performance in the floor event would allow her to tie for first place, marking her sixth top finish in the event this season.

Among the best in the nation, Boris ranks 30th in the NCAA rankings with a National Qualifying Score (NQS) of 39.360 and an average all-around score of 39.258.

## EMU Tennis earns a 6-1 win against Findlay on Senior Day

The Eastern Michigan University tennis team returned to the Chippewa Club in Ypsilanti, Mich., to celebrate Senior Day as they took on the University of Findlay, downing the Oilers, 6-1, after winning all six singles matches. Entering the matchup, the Oilers ranked No. 22 in the ITA Collegiate Tennis/NCAA Division II rankings.

The Eagles honored and celebrated seniors Linda Eloundou (Yaounde, Cameroon) and Andrea Quiroz (Lima, Peru) ahead of the match for their contributions to the program.

Singles play was where the Green and White thrived as Quiroz would complete a sweep of two 6-0 wins at No. 2. It marked the first time this season that Quiroz would beat her opponent to zero points in both sets. Eloundou would step up to the plate as she concluded her straight-set with a victory at No. 4 singles, 6-4 and 6-3. Freshman Ksyusha Saenko (Voronezh, Russia) would follow with a win at No. 3 singles, 7-6(4), 6-1, to make it 3-1.

Sophomore Daniella Shved (Holon, Israel) would down Findlay's Anamarija Kovacevic in three sets, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1, as juniors Sabina Brichackova (Chen, Czech Republic) and Vidisha Reddy (Hyderabad, India) both took wins at No. 5 and No. 6.

Sitting with a 6-0 home record on the season, the Eagles now improve to 6-6 overall.

## EMU women's basketball team beats Bowling Green in season finale game

ELENA DAVIS  
SPORTS REPORTER

Cheers echoed through the George Gervin GameAbove Center as the Eastern Michigan University women's basketball team sealed an electrifying season finale with a triumphant victory over the Bowling Green State University Falcons. EMU honored their seniors in style on March 9, winning 59-54 and having supporters on the edge of their seats in a thrilling match.

It was Senior Day inside the G3 as the Eagles honored five members of the program. Student manager Alex Lara, graduate assistant Kate Sherwood, graduate student Kennedi Myles (Cincinnati, Ohio), senior Ashley Hassett (Hershey, Neb.), and senior ZaNiya Nelson (Oklahoma City, Okla.).

Olivia Westphal (Bethel Park, Pa.) led offensively for the Eagles (7-22, 3-15 Mid-American Conference) as she finished with a career-high 16 points and two steals. In addition to Lachelle Austin (Redford, Mich.), who scored 15 points, Myles contributed 11 points and 11 rebounds for a double-double. It marks the 18th career double-double for Myles.

The Green and White outrebounded

Bowling Green, 40-37, with 11 boards apiece from Myles and Tayra Eke (Madrid, Spain). In addition, the Eagles scored 13 second-chance points and pulled down 17 offensive rebounds.

With her 11 rebounds against Bowling Green on March 9, Eke surpassed her career milestone of 500 and now has a career total of 506.

With 2:35 remaining in the first quarter, EMU extended their lead to 26-7 after opening up a 17-7 lead. This run of 9 points was capped off by a bucket from Myles. Even though they lost some of their lead, the Eagles led 26-9 going into the half.

For 12 of its 26 points throughout the season, Eastern Michigan's three-point shooting was the main source of their offense, converting four from beyond the arc.

The Eagles defeated the Falcons 32-21 at the half. EMU led its opponent 4-1 after the opening two-quarters of play for the seventh time this season. In 14 games during the previous season, the club was ahead of its opponent after 30 minutes of play, going 11-3 in those matches.

With 1:23 remaining in the third quarter, Dara Capaldi (East Detroit, Mich.) scored a basket to spark a 7-0 run for EMU, which

allowed them to extend their advantage to 45-33. The Falcons had considerably reduced that margin at the end of the third quarter, but the Eagles still held a 45-38 advantage going into the fourth quarter. With 10 of its 13 points coming from the paint, Eastern Michigan demonstrated strong near-the-hoop play.

The Eagles then held on for the victory in



PHOTO CREDIT: MILES CORLEY

#44 KENNEDY MYLES RUNNING THE BASKETBALL TO THE NET.

LUTHERAN?

COME HOME FOR EASTER



Easter Sunday Service

March 31 - 10 AM

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

201 N River

Ypsilanti

## Eastern Michigan football to kickoff 2024 season with spring practices

BLAKE MCQUEARY  
SPORTS EDITOR

After months of rest and hibernation, a return to "The Factory" is finally in store for the Eastern Michigan University football team as the spring season has taken over the brittleness of winter, making way for spring practice to finally kick-off.

The Eagles will complete a five-week practice period that includes 15 practice dates as they will hit the field three times per week. It will end with the program's annual spring game, which is scheduled for Friday, April 12.

Here is the full spring practice schedule, with some times subject to change, according to EMU Athletics:

Monday, March 11 - 3:25 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 13 - 3:10 p.m.  
Friday, March 15 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, March 18 - 3:10 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20 - 3:10 p.m.

Friday, March 22 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, March 25 - 3:10 p.m.

Wednesday, March 27 - 3:10 p.m.

Friday, March 29 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 1 - 3:10 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3 - 3:10 p.m.

Friday, April 5 - 3:30 p.m.

Monday, April 8 - 3:10 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10 - 3:10 p.m.

Friday, April 12 - 6:30 p.m. - Spring Game

As the team undergoes a season change, even more change will come inside "The Factory" as renovations to Rynearson Stadium will include removal of the track and replacement of the turf.

In addition, the field will officially have a name for itself as it will be renamed "Maxx Crosby Field" after a \$1 million donation

from former Eagle and current Las Vegas Raider Maxx Crosby and his wife Rachel Crosby.

Renovations to the stadium will break ground in March and are expected to be finished in May. Due to this project, EMU will hold the annual spring game inside the Indoor Practice Facility. Due to capacity limits, the event will be closed to the general public.

Season tickets for the upcoming season are now on sale and can be purchased at the Eastern Athletics Ticket Office located inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, calling the Ticket Office at 734-487-3669, or by going online to EMUEagles.com/tickets.

For updates on all things EMU football throughout the spring and summer, as they ramp up the 2024 campaign, you can visit The Echo's website.

## EMU baseball takes two out of three on the road

HUGH THORP  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Mid-American Conference campaign began on the road for the Eastern Michigan University Baseball program as they traveled to Muncie, Ind., finishing the weekend taking two out of three from the Ball State Cardinals to open up the MAC schedule.

The Eagles won an offensive-explosive game for both teams on Friday 10-9, followed by a pitcher-dominated 6-2 win on Saturday, and losing on Sunday in yet another offensive shootout by a score of 11-8.

The weekend's results now find Eastern Michigan at 5-10 (2-1 MAC) on the season. The Eagles scored a total of 24 runs on offense over the three games.

The Eagles have now scored more than 10 runs in a game this season three times already. These comprise three out of five of the Eagles' wins this season.

## Game One:

The Eagles led from the jump in the opening game of the weekend series and did not look back. It started with Cooper Vance

(New Waterville, Ohio) and Cory Taylor (Shelbyville, Ind.) getting RBI singles.

The Green and White also hit a total of three home runs in the first game of the series, including Logan Hugo (Essexville, Mich.), Lucas Johnson (Hamilton, Ontario), and Taylor who each had one.

The team led by as many as seven runs in the first game, being up 8-1 after the top half of the fifth inning.

Pitching struggled for Eastern Michigan, although Drew Jones (Cleveland, Ohio) tallied his first save of the season by pitching a scoreless ninth-inning.

## Game Two:

Pitching was the story of game two for the Eagles. Drew Beckner (Westerville, Ohio) had a solid outing for Eastern Michigan. Pitching six innings of just two-run ball, and then Niko Kreuzer (Westerville, Ohio) came on in relief and pitched three perfect games.

The offense saw three players get multiple hits in the game. Including Taylor, Darren Kraft (Mount Pleasant, S.C.), and Kyle Schroedle (Redding, Calif.).

Taylor also homered for the second consecutive game while Kraft hit a homer for

Eastern Michigan. The extra-base hits made all the difference in game two for the Eagles.

## Game Three:

The final game saw the Cardinals blow out the Eagles for the most part, except for a six-run ninth inning that Eastern Michigan possessed.

Things got out of hand even in the first inning when Ball State hit two home runs. Eastern Michigan also did not have any extra-base hits in the series finale as well, something they had a lot of strength in during the first two games.

Schroedle and Vance were the only two players who recorded multiple hits for the Eagles.

Eastern Michigan did record eight walks in the loss as well. They did that on Saturday's game too, producing 16 passes in two games.

Up next, Eastern Michigan will stay on the road to play at Morehead State before finally returning home to play Michigan. It will be a four-game series contested on March 15-17 with a doubleheader on March 16. All games are slated to be aired on ESPN+.

## EAGLE RADIO



Student Radio For Students

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## EMU men's hoops falls to rival Central Michigan

BLAKE MCQUEARY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Winning in its last five of seven trips to McGuirk Arena in Mount Pleasant, Mich., the Eastern Michigan University men's basketball team was in search of adding to that record against in-state and Mid-American Conference rival Central Michigan University. After a battle that would see an extra five minutes with overtime, the Chippewas would outlast the Eagles, 65-62.

The Eagles were without star junior guard Tyson Acuff (Detroit, Mich.) as he missed his third-straight game with an ankle injury. Acuff was the Eagles' leading scorer all year as he averaged 21.7 points per game this season, which leads the MAC and ranks seventh in the nation. The Detroit native is also averaging 3.7 minutes per game, which leads the MAC while ranking third in the country.

Freshman guard Arne Osojnik (Ljubljana, Slovenia) led the Eagles offensively as he finished with a team-high 15 points while junior forward Yusuf Jihad (Farmington Hills, Mich.) added 13 points. Junior forward Jalin Billingsley (Cleveland, Ohio) would chip in 11 points.

Osojnik finishes the season first in the MAC in scoring by a true freshman, as he averaged 8.6 points per game on the year.

It was all CMU within the first 10 minutes of play as the Chippewas started off hot, hitting multiple three-pointers to run out to a 21-6 lead with 11:43 left in the first half. The Eagles would then produce a 15-5 run highlighted by two buckets from Billingsley as they managed to cut the deficit, 26-21, with 2:03 left before halftime.

The Chippewas would close out the first half and enter halftime with a 29-23 advantage over the Eagles.

EMU entered the second half full throttle as they rattled off 13 points to take the Chippewas lead, 36-31, with 13:58 left in the second half. As CMU struggled to get

anything going offensively, the Eagles would continue to pour it on as they extended their lead, 47-36, highlighted by six points from Jihad.

CMU would answer back from the Eagles' run with a 16-5 run of their own to cut the EMU lead within two, 54-52, with 2:57 left to play. After a free throw from Billingsley would extend the Eagles' lead to three, CMU's Paul McMillian IV would sink a three-pointer to tie the game at 55, all with 31 seconds left to play.

McMillian IV would have the chance at another three-pointer to give CMU the lead with seven seconds left to play, but he would ultimately miss the shot and the game would be sent to overtime.

The extra five minutes of play would be all CMU as they outscored the Eagles 10-7 to secure a 65-62 win.

The difference maker in the matchup would be the attack on the glass as the Chippewas would outrebound EMU, 60-38. Additionally, CMU would haul in 25

offensive rebounds.

Despite the loss, EMU has found success in games decided by 10 points or less this season, holding a 12-7 record in that category. EMU is also now 8-4 in games decided by four points or less.

The Eagles finish the 20

# Around The Community



PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL  
GIDEON, EMU'S CAMPUS GHOST, ADVISES STUDENT AT EMU CAMPUS LIFE'S EAGLE CON IN THE STUDENT CENTER ON MARCH 7.



PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL  
INDIE SINGER-SONGWRITER AND MUSICIAN MADI DIAZ PERFORMS AT ANN ARBOR MUSIC VENUE THE ARK ON MARCH 5.

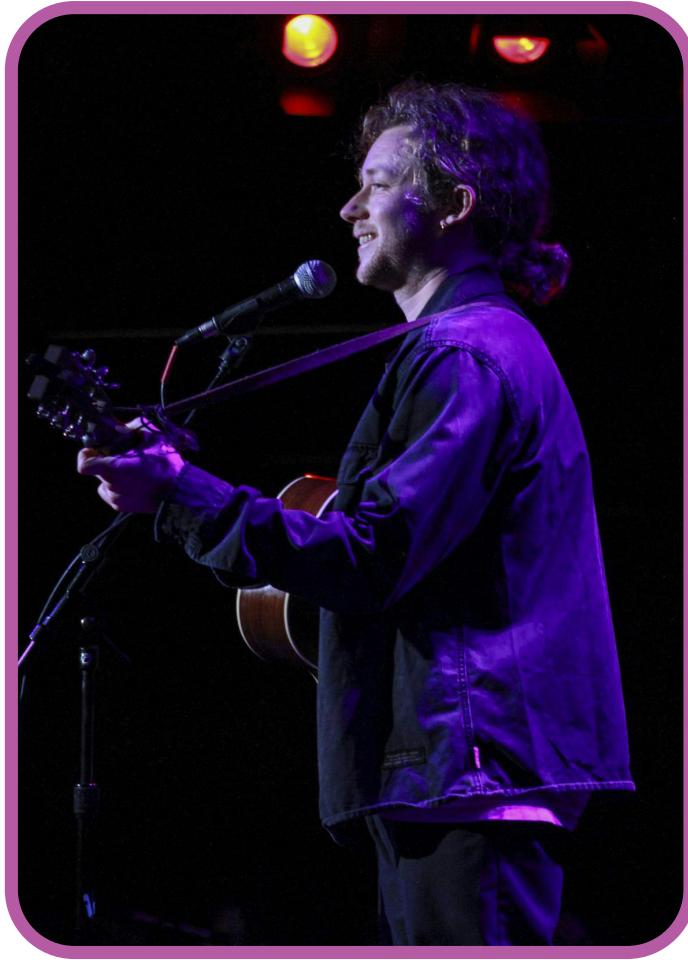


PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL  
FOLK SINGER-SONGWRITER AND MUSICIAN JACK VAN CLEAF PERFORMS AT ANN ARBOR MUSIC VENUE THE ARK ON MARCH 5.



PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL  
ATTENDEES GATHER IN EMU'S UNIVERSITY GALLERY ON MARCH 7 FOR THE OPENING RECEPTION OF EMU'S SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN FACULTY EXHIBITION. THE EXHIBITION WILL CLOSE ON MARCH 15.



PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL  
COSPLAYERS INDIGO, SUNNY, STORMI, AND DRE LEAD A "COSPLAYING WHILE BLACK" PANEL DISCUSSION. EMU CAMPUS LIFE HOSTED EAGLE CON IN THE STUDENT CENTER ON MARCH 7.



PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL  
EMU STUDENTS ASK CONSTRUCTION WORKERS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IN-PROGRESS LAKEVIEW APARTMENTS. EMU HOUSING HOSTED 30-MINUTE TOURS ON MARCH 7 WITH 4 ROOMS (STUDIO, 2-BEDROOM, AND 2 4-BEDROOMS) OPEN FOR VIEWING.



PHOTO CREDIT: MADISON CANTRELL  
"GLAZE DRAWING I & II" BY MARGEAUX CLAUDE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CERAMICS AT EMU. EMU'S SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN FACULTY SHOWCASE THEIR WORK IN A FACULTY EXHIBITION IN EMU'S UNIVERSITY GALLERY.



PHOTO CREDIT: JAY MANEA  
EMU'S CHOIR PERFORMS A COLLECTION OF HYMNS AND SONGS THAT DEMONSTRATE THE HEIGHT OF THEIR MUSICAL APTITUDE AND TALENT. PHOTO TAKEN MARCH 8, 2024, AT PEASE AUDITORIUM IN YPSILANTI, MICH.



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music on  
The Echo  
website!

## Review: 'Dune: Part Two' is a stellar sequel

FRANK REMSKI  
COLUMNIST



The much anticipated sequel to 2021's science fiction epic "Dune" has finally arrived in theaters.

Picking up right where the first film left off, "Dune: Part Two" sees Timothée Chalamet reprise his role as Paul Atreides, a Messianic figure to the Fremen people. The films are set on the desert planet Arrakis, an inhospitable world with deadly, giant worms. On Arrakis, the characters fight for control of a drug known as "Spice," which grants enhanced abilities and makes space travel possible.

"Dune: Part Two" and its predecessor were directed by Denis Villeneuve. They are adaptations of the 1965 novel "Dune" by Frank Herbert. Both films adapt the first book of Herbert's series.

### Highs

"Dune: Part Two" is a long movie, clocking in at 2 hours and 46 minutes. Though this may bore some viewers who are not into the genre, it provides an exquisite experience for those who are.

The film is masterfully written. Intricate and shifting alliances clash over Arrakis with enduring well played characters. The film leaves ample time for the viewer to get swept into the story. The length and slower pacing allow this expansive epic time to breathe.

Throughout, it is visually a masterpiece. From widescreen breathtaking views of spaceships and monsters to detailed, creative costumes and props. The film imagines a vivid, interstellar, far future.

With multiple points of views to follow from many famous actors, they across the board give impressive performances, embodying these far off people. Zendaya, who plays the role of Chani, is especially welcomed, having been mostly absent from the first film, she shines in the sequel. Austin Butler's bloodthirsty villainy and Florence Pugh as a concerned and thoughtful princess are also excellent new additions to the

"Dune" franchise.

At the heart of the movie is the chosen one trope. Though this trope is tired, "Dune" deconstructs it. It is a breath of fresh air even though the story is nearly six decades old.

### Lows

Though "Dune" deconstructs the chosen one trope, it is plagued by another tired one: the white savior narrative.

The Fremen people borrow several cultural cues from Arab cultures and Islam, so there is also the question of cultural appropriation. Though "Dune" does portray the Fremen in a positive light, they are still ultimately saved by a literal white savior.

The film does attempt to avoid this trope by having characters argue the Fremen should save themselves, but there is not enough focus on this conflict to fully defang the trope.

### Verdict

"Dune: Part Two" would be perfect if not for its questionable handling of culture. It is a blockbuster epic that skillfully understands how to create a good space drama with a team of people, both in front and behind the scenes, who bring their best.

"Dune: Part Two" is currently playing in theaters. The Eastern Echo has also reviewed the first "Dune" movie, which can be found here.

**Rating: 9 out of 10 stars.**

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since the summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.

## Review: 'Imaginary' combines elements of childhood with thrilling emotions

MARIAM FAKHREDDINE  
COLUMNIST

The teddy bear horror film "Imaginary" directed by Jeff Wadlow premiered in theaters on Friday, March 8. The three main characters in this film, Jessica (DeWanda Wise), Taylor (Taegan Burns), and Alice (Piper Braun), were a combination of humorous and thrilling. There aren't many scary movies with demonic teddy bears, thus this one stood out from the usual horror genre. The evil teddy bear did bring similar elements from the "Chucky" movie.

### Synopsis

The main character Jessica is the stepmother of her husband Max's (Tom Payne) children Alice and Taylor. They decide to move to Jessica's childhood home which becomes creepier than it looks. The youngest daughter Alice goes wandering throughout the house into the basement and finds this stuffed bear named Chauncey. After Alice makes Chauncey her imaginary friend, her behavior becomes abnormal. Jessica is a children's book author, which is her passion, while her husband Max goes on tour; this is when Jessica watches the children until he is back. She becomes more concerned about Alice after she realizes what she is saying about Chauncey.

### Highs

The interior of the home, which looked stunning, was one of the film's highlights; one did not anticipate it to be as creepy as it was. The audience was entertained even though this film was more of a thriller than a horror film. The actors in particular, especially

DeWanda Wise as Jessica and Piper Braun as Alice, were very outstanding. Wise offered the daughters the ideal impression of a stepmother who is both reassuring and unafraid to take on a motherly role. The film's emotional journey effectively highlights Jessica's character and her transformation into a mother. Braun played the typically sassy young child who was fiercely loyal to her stuffed animal.

Braun's acting was excellent, especially considering that she is only ten years old. Throughout the film, she displayed distressing feelings that a child shouldn't have to experience. Next, Taegan Burns' character starts as a snobby adolescent who hates her stepmother; yet, as the film progresses, their relationship becomes even closer. Her character Taylor had an incredible transformation from an arrogant adolescent to a strong young woman.

### Lows

The lack of numerous jump-scares and the fact that the film was more thrilling than frightening were its negative points. Although the concept was unsettling, it lacked the elements of a horror film. The stuffed animal in the movie was also creepy but not as much as in typical horror films where the animals are meant to wander around. The child was more conscious of what she was doing, as if the teddy bear hadn't taken control, and the bear was merely appearing rather than moving.

The absence of their father and the lack of context surrounding their mother was another negative point of the film. More background information on what transpired

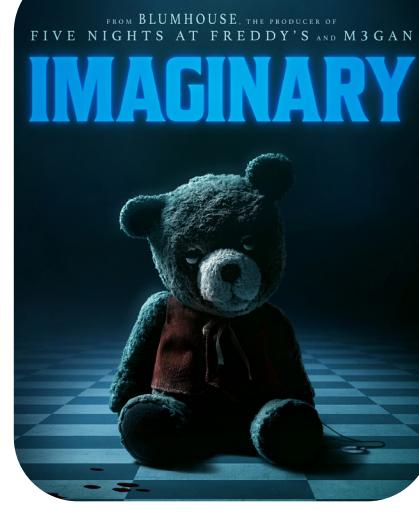
with the children's mother and why they moved away should have been provided. The plot seemed to be lacking something as the storyline developed. Their daughter Taylor caused some of the movie's plot points to become unclear.

### Verdict

The film was entertaining, but it lacked some elements that would have turned it from fascinating and mysterious to more terrifying. Watching it as a thriller is worthwhile.

**Rating: 6 out of 10.**

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.



## Review: Everything Everything's 'Mountainhead' is a lot to take in

KASPER MIELKE  
COLUMNIST

Politics in music is like cookies and milk: both are and can be separate entities, but they also go marvelously together. Along with that, politics is a topic that has been hard to avoid nowadays. Everything Everything is here to display that even an album about the gross effects of capitalism can be catchy.

### Background

Everything Everything is a UK based indie band, and they are most notable for their record "Get To Heaven." Their first single for the record "Mountainhead" was released in the last quarter of 2023, and they have added a few more singles in anticipation for the full LP. A lot of their work is politically charged, focusing on topics such as capitalism.

### Album Highs

One thing that this album does well is that it flows really well. Each track generally has the same tone despite a couple being more somber than others. Where this shows up is

in the first handful of tracks. "Wild Guess" through "Buddy, Come Over" are there to introduce the listener to what the concept world is, but then the song "R U Happy?" shows up and flips the emotion on its head. The person in the track is about someone wanting to give up because of the failures their society has bestowed onto them. That being said, the musical tone does not hiccup one bit. If one were to separate the music from the lyrics, they'd get two different meanings.

Another thing this record gets right is building the world within it. "Mountainhead" is a concept record, meant to tell a story. The general theme is about post-capitalism. The forms of capitalism in this story are so far gone that they can barely be recognized as capitalism anymore. In a song like "The Mad Stone," they hone in on the religious side of politics.

### Album Lows

Something that this album does well is having the tracks flow seamlessly from one

to the other, but it also makes some tracks indistinguishable. It would take a fair amount of listens before someone is able to recognize which is which. Whether this was the band's intent or not is in the eye of the beholder, but it can be seen as a minor flaw when listening to the record for the first time.

Another thing to be said is that one half of the record is certainly stronger than the other. They did put most of the singles in the first half, leaving the ending tracks to fuse together. "Cold Reactor" and "The End of the Contender" are so upbeat, but by the time the listener gets to the end, they only note the beginning tracks.

### Verdict

This record is a 6.5 out of 10.

Kasper Mielke is a music reviewer for The Eastern Echo. He is a women and gender studies major with a minor in creative writing. He has worked for The Echo since the summer of 2022 and has stuck to writing music reviews.

## LITERARY SOLITUDE | RYLEE CURLEY



## The Echo team

**Marie White**  
editor@easternecho.com

*Editor-in-Chief*

**Aaron Hughes**  
managing@easternecho.com

*Managing Editor*

**Victoria Smith**  
content@easternecho.com

*Content Editor*

**Blake McQueary**  
sports@easternecho.com

*Sports Editor*

**Emma Owens**  
copy@easternecho.com

*Copy Editor*

**Sarai Yanes**  
digital@easternecho.com

*Digital Editor*

**Alex Kreps**  
podcast@easternecho.com

*Podcast Editor*

**Madison Cantrell**  
photo@easternecho.com

*Photo Editor*

**Ameera Salman**  
cellarroots@easternecho.com

*Cellar Roots EIC*

**Christine Uthoff**  
advisor@easternecho.com

*Echo Advisor*

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